

Riverside Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2019 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ask an usher for audio hearing units

Please silence your cell phones.

Childcare for children through preschool is available upstairs.

* Indicates please stand in body or Spirit.



Heaven and
Nature Sing!

300 years of
JOY
to the World

“Joy to the World” turns 300 this year.
Composer Isaac Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a
new song—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation
being renewed and freed.

With joy we hear the story of the first Christmas
as told through the eyes of two stars

WE PREPARE

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

* PASSING THE PEACE (Responsive)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* Patterson

CALL TO WORSHIP Sung response vs 4 #134

Let the sea laugh, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it
Let the waters clap their hands; let the hills ring out with joy before the
beloved, who radiates peace to all the earth. For Love reigns over the
world with truth and justice bringing order and balance to all of Creation.

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

THE CHILDREN LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH The Candle of Peace

INVITATION TO PRAYER

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS (Responsive)

Holy God, we await again the arrival of Your son, the Prince of Peace. We
long for the peaceful waters of joy that run deep and wide underneath
all of life. When we feel the chaos of life bearing down on us, help us to
remember that it doesn't have to be this way. Help us to step into a
slower rhythm that is your Peaceful Joy.

Let truth and grace rule our hearts this day.

Let truth and grace rule our church this day.

Let truth and grace rule the world this day.

(Silent prayers)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

* HYMN 88 vs 1, 4-7

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Congregation is invited to sing with the Ringers

* SUNG RESPONSE #113 Refrain

Angels We Have Heard on High

PRAYER OF DEDICATION



ONE STARRY NIGHT

During the performance you are invited to remain seated and sing the following carols:

121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* Please join in singing verse one, five & refrain

*134 *Joy to the World* (please stand)

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Vom Himmel hoch, da Komm ich her*

Pachelbel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00 PM.

Join us for a traditional service of lessons and carols focusing on joy, the hymn “Joy to the World” to be exact. “Joy to the World” turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watts’ interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a new song—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed.

Christmas Eve we gather to worship the One who is joy. As we come together, our hearts will be expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God’s love is as limitless as the stars above. And we will witness that all of nature yearns to reach and expand toward the light of God so that all might know joy.

SAVE THE DATE

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7:00 pm

December 29 – Fifth Sunday, Worship as Mission at BEDS Plus

CHRISTMAS LIST— When you are checking off your Christmas list, please take some time to consider whether your 2019 pledge is up to date. You may also wish to consider making a year-end gift to RPC — one suggestion is to make a gift of a “13th Month” of your regular pledge. We have already received a few generous gifts from our member “angels” for which we are very grateful. We would love to be able to balance the 2019 budget before the new year rolls around, and every extra contribution helps.

2019 PER CAPITA — If you have not already paid your per capita, it is \$34.22 per member. Please consider rounding up or paying an extra per capita for those who find it a difficulty.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is one of four church-wide special offerings of the PC (USA). It supports current and former church workers, their families, and offers education and leadership development at Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic colleges and other schools. Please give generously, or as you are able.



GIFT CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS — Help RPC Preschool and get a head start on holiday shopping using gift cards from Shop with Scrip. The office has order forms. Please return your order form with a check made out to RPC in the office by Thursday for following week delivery. **THIS IS AN ONGOING FUNDRAISER.**

CARERS NEWS DECEMBER— To stave off the chill of winter for those in need, please fill the CARERS trunk with **hot soups, hot cereals and hot boxed foods.** No breakable containers please. The contributions will be distributed to local food pantries.

ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER — All committee annual reports are due on or before Thursday, January 2. Contact the office if you have any questions or need detailed instructions.



FIFTH SUNDAY—DECEMBER 29— BEDS PLUS, 9601 Ogden, LaGrange—We will meet at the church at 10:00 and carpool to BEDS Plus. At 10:30 we will invite the residents to join us in a brief Christmas Service filled with Christmas Music followed by a Pot Luck Brunch. Please bring enough food to share with the residents.

PLEDGE CARDS—If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience.

JANUARY CALENDAR AND BIRTHDAYS — Copies of the January calendar and birthdays are at the back of the sanctuary and in the rack by the office.

HUMAN SCENE—is discussing the Book of Luke, Sundays at 9:00 am in the Parlor.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – If you have announcements for the bulletin, please keep in mind the deadline to submit them to the office is 12:00 pm Wednesday.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS — Copies of the January-February Upper Room are in the rack outside the office.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE FOR FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY — Christmas Wishes ~ May your home be filled with warmth and good cheer this Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you January 22 at 10 am in the Social Hall.

ATTENTION HOLIDAY BAKERS— A 25-pound bag of Domino sugar has been donated to RPC. Do you need sugar for your holiday baking needs? We will be dividing up the sugar into gallon size Ziploc bags. If you would like one, please see Tara Gregus after church or call her at 708-447-9551. We are asking for a small monetary donation to the Little Food Pantry in exchange for the sugar. Happy baking!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS—The office will be closed December 24 through January 1. Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly. Regular office hours resume January 2.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ushers: Patti Perry and Tara Gregus

Fellowship Time is hosted by Sandra Kappmeyer and Dennis Zander.

Trustees of the Month: Patti Perry and Fred Kitch

Thank you to the Riverside Ringers & Singers for joining today's Ministry of Music.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! WELCOME TO RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. JOIN US ANY SUNDAY.

WORSHIP. Worship is our time to praise and grow closer to God. Worship each week includes song, prayer, learning, silence, and giving. Children participate fully in worship. We offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery. Reverend Jackson preaches every Sunday.

Beginning Epiphany Sunday, January 5, we begin a worship series based on *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*

There are few personalities who evoke such universal feelings of warmth as Presbyterian minister, Fred Rogers. An enduring presence in American homes for over 30 years, his plainspoken wisdom continues to guide and comfort many. Mister Rogers reminds us that there is much more in life that unites us than divides us. "I like you as you are, Exactly and precisely, I think you turned out nicely, And I like you as you are."

Fred Rogers fiercely believed that all people deserve love. This conviction wasn't simply sentimental: it came directly from his Christian faith. God, he insisted, loves us just the way we are. Throughout the months of January and February we will explore the wisdom and profound theology of Mr. Rogers.

EDUCATION FOR ALL. Church school and adult education classes are held every Sunday morning from September through late May. Children focus on Bible study and mission. Adult ed focuses on issues from Bible study to faith journeys to church history to current events to international conflicts. We also offer Theology on Tap on Monday evenings, Men's and Women's Forums and Women's Bible Study. Visit the church's website to learn more.

MISSION. Our participation in Mission starts locally and expands around the world. We offer the Little Food Pantry, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Throughout the greater Chicago area, we support Pillars, the Constance Morris House, The Boulevard, The Presbytery of Chicago's Hunger Program. Internationally we support Mission Co-Workers in the Dominican Republic.

THIS WEEK

Today

10:00 am Worship—Children’s Pageant
11:00 am Fellowship
11:15 am Mission Committee

Monday

5:30 pm Volleyball

Tuesday

6:30 am Men’s Forum
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday

Christmas Day
Office Closed

Thursday

6:30 am Women’s Forum

Sunday

10:00 am 5th Sunday at BEDS Plus
3:00 pm The Boulevard

Riverside Presbyterian Church

116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546
(708) 447-1520, rpcusa.org
Sermons available at
<https://vimeo.com/riversidepresbyterian>

Our Mission Statement:

We gather as a church to:
Celebrate God’s presence,
Nurture the Spiritual Life,
Carry the light of Christ into the world,
Serve God by serving others.

RPC Staff

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2019 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders	2019 Jeanine Buttimer Patti Friend Susan Lynch Lisa Aulerich- Marciniak	2020 Frank Gangware Martha Heine Lynda Nadkarni Dennis Zander	2021 Gwen Heine Allan Halline Matt Lisle Mary Ann Sadilek, Clerk
Deacons	Ellen Hamilton Sandra Kappmeyer Steve Teune	Lloyd Bradbury Charlie Juister Sally Sloane Jeanne Smith	Deb Jansky Serina Ranft Wendy Seifert
Trustees	Cyril Friend Fred Kitch Brad Staubus	Patti Perry Doug Harvin Hank Vogel	Thom DeVries Fred Mitchell